Compensation for rail accidents

4049. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to augment the security of passengers of Indian Railways;

(b) whether compensation to victims of rail accidents has been increased; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Maintenance of law and order over the Railways is the responsibility of the State Governments which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP). In addition to various mesures being taken by the GRP to improve the safety and security of the passengers, the Railway Administration is taking the following steps to assist GRP:—

1. Anti-social elements are being removed from railway premises and trains by RPF.
2. Proper watch is being kept by Coach attendants/TEs on the passengers entering/detraining from the coaches and the coaches are locked during their run especially in night hours.
3. FIR forms are made available with the Train Guards/Station Masters/ RPF to facilitate the travelling public to lodge their reports immediately.
4. Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and GRP is being done at all levels.
5. Announcement through Public Address System and CCTV at important Railway Stations to alert the travelling passengers against theft to their belongings etc.
6. Periodic co-ordination meetings with Government Railway Police and Local Police are being conducted to analyze the crime position on Railways with a view to take suitable preventive measures.
7. Wherever the State Government wants to establish mobile post in the running trains, necessary facilities like accommodation etc. are being provided.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Higher compensation is being paid for train accidents or untoward incidents taking place on or after 1-11-97, compensation for death and permanent disability has been raised from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 4 lakhs. In case of injuries, the minimum amount has been raised from Rs. 16,000 to Rs. 32,000 and the maximum from Rs. 1.80 lakhs to Rs. 3.60 lakhs depending upon the extent of injuries.

Land levy charges to KRC by Maharashtra

4050. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has asked the Konkan Railway Corporation to pay the levy on land under its track and use;

(b) whether KRC has been served notices by two district collectorates in the State, to pay the land levy charges, for using land for non-agricultural purposes;

(c) whether KRC has been getting tax relief from the Karnataka Government, since 1992; and

(d) if so, whether the Central Government would intervene in the matter and sort out the things amicably?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways has taken up this issue with Government of Maharashtra to review its decision and exempt KRC from these charges.

Modasa-Kapadvanj rail line

†4051. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Modasa-Kapadvanj rail line in Gujarat, figured in the last year's Budget has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not starting rail services on that rail line, so far, and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.